



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Center for Economic Development  
and Business Research

# 2015 Kansas Employment Forecast

## January 2015

Nationally, real GDP grew at a robust rate of 3.9 percent in the third quarter of 2014, following strong 4.6 percent growth in the second quarter. Private and government investment were the strongest components of GDP growth in the third quarter. Net exports also grew robustly, and private consumption grew at a more measured pace. Employment increased by 1.5 percent nationally in the last twelve months, while Kansas employment increased by 1 percent.

### Kansas Employment Forecast

In 2015, Kansas total nonfarm employment is expected to increase by 24,691 jobs, which implies the employment growth rate is anticipated to be 1.8 percent.

Kansas Employment by Industry Summary*					
	2013 (a)	2014 (e)	2015 (f)	2014-2015 Level Change	2014-2015 Percent Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>1,372,836</b>	<b>1,387,798</b>	<b>1,412,489</b>	<b>24,691</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Production Sectors</b>	<b>229,887</b>	<b>230,901</b>	<b>234,989</b>	<b>4,088</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>260,373</b>	<b>262,869</b>	<b>265,654</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>Service Sectors</b>	<b>625,335</b>	<b>637,193</b>	<b>654,807</b>	<b>17,614</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>257,241</b>	<b>256,836</b>	<b>257,039</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>0.1%</b>

\*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections.  
(a) actual (e) estimated (f) forecasted

- The production sectors are projected to grow 1.8 percent in Kansas, adding 4,088 jobs. The majority of this growth will be in the natural resources and mining sector, with almost 3,000 jobs added. The remaining growth will be evenly split between durable and nondurable manufacturing, each adding almost 600 jobs.
- The trade, transportation and utilities sector is projected to add 2,785 jobs, for 1.1 percent growth. The retail trade sector and transportation and utilities sector are expected to lead this growth, each adding over 1,000 jobs with over 2 percent growth, while the wholesale trade sector's growth lags behind, with 0.4 percent growth adding 240 new jobs.

- The service sectors are anticipated to be the largest growth sectors in 2015, adding 17,614 new jobs while growing 2.8 percent. The largest component of this growth is expected to be the professional and business services sector, which is forecast to add 6,203 new jobs with 3.7 percent growth. The education and health services sector will also be experiencing significant growth, adding 5,376 new jobs and a 2.8 percent growth rate. The other services sector is anticipated to grow 3.5 percent as well.
- The government sector is projected to grow 0.1 percent, adding 204 jobs in 2015. The federal and state government sectors are forecast to decline in employment, while the local government sector is anticipated to add more than 800 jobs statewide.

The Center for Economic Development and Business Research can provide detailed industry, wage, retail, and other customized forecasts upon request. Contact Jeremy Hill at (316) 213-3673 for costs and availability.